

Increasing Political Participation in the LGBT Community in Utah

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Increasing Political Participation in the LGBT Community in Utah

Problem statement

Discriminatory practices and hate crimes against members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community runs as deep as societies themselves. Throughout history the social roles that various segments of the LGBT community have been both highly regarded as well as despised in human history. LGBT people frequently face violence due to their sexuality or gender identity. Violence against this community can come from the state in the form of laws stipulating corporal punishment for homosexual acts or by individuals engaging in intimidation, mobbing, assault, or lynching. The violence may be directed at people because of their perceived sexuality can be psychological or physical and can extend to murder.

Those who participate in such behavior may be motivated by homophobia, lesbophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and may be influenced by cultural, religious, or political mores and biases. Many times it is in the form of hate speech directed at LGBT people as well as depictions of LGBT people in the media that reinforce negative stereotypes. The violence that is directed toward the LGBT community ranges from stares, discriminatory statements regarding their family, friends or lovers, all the way up to murder by extreme brutality.

While society sees the “queer community” lumped together, there are clear distinctions in each of the categories where discrimination and hate crimes exist within the LGBT fractions. Those elements that are gay, lesbian and bisexual involve establishing sexual or personal relationships that involve people of the same birth sex. Preference in sexual orientation surfaces when gay men see no value in associating with lesbian women. Bi-sexual people are shunned at times by both the gay and lesbian communities while they can fit in. The transgendered element isn't about sexual orientation relationships, but personal expression of a gender role. Overall this

has caused a deep divide within the community because they do not always share the same goals. Going deeper into the transgendered community, the segments of cross-dressers, transvestites and transsexuals is also sharply divided. Past history is full of any segment of the community willfully sacrificing one or more of the others to gain political and policy traction.

Equality in the United States has not existed for the LGBT community. Despite the contributions of many LGBT people to the history of the United States such as Katharine Lee Bates. Bates wrote the anthem “America the Beautiful.” Some describe the couple as intimate lesbian partners, citing as an example Bates' 1891 letter to Katharine Coman: "It was never very possible to leave Wellesley [for good], because so many love-anchors held me there, and it seemed least of all possible when I had just found the long-desired way to your dearest heart...Of course I want to come to you, very much as I want to come to Heaven" (Schwarz, 1979). The first draft of "America the Beautiful" was hastily jotted down in a notebook during the summer of 1893, which Bates spent teaching English at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Later she remembered:

One day some of the other teachers and I decided to go on a trip to 14,000-foot Pikes Peak. We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse” (Katharine Lee Bates, 1895).

Discrimination against the LGBT community comes in many forms such as discrimination in employment and housing. Most prevalent is the discrimination and treatment doled out by the government authorities that are to protect and serve. “The bulk of the book, however, explores the multiple concrete ways that LGBT people interact with today’s criminal

legal system: as targets of everyday policing; defendants in criminal trials; inmates in jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers; and victims of violence. Across these sites, LGBT people suffer discriminatory treatment that includes prosecutors' deployment of homophobic and transphobic narratives in death penalty cases, prison officials' refusal to protect inmates against sexual assault, and police officers' failure to investigate violence against LGBT people.

Throughout the book, the authors skillfully connect queer experiences of criminalization to broader trends in policing and punishment, such as quality of life policing and "tough on crime" sentencing laws" (Mogul et al., 2013).

Failure to enact protective legislation has left LGBTQ persons exposed to a litany of daily degradations and related injustices. In 2011, an employee at the Utah Driver License Division refused to photograph a transgender woman for a new state ID card until she publicly removed her makeup. This she did while two other employees laughed and the supervisor loudly stated that the woman was a man. After another customer complained, the Division continued to insist there had been no wrongdoing and only apologized "if she felt like she had been mistreated." (<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/blogslgbt/51542380-61/audette-transgender-rolfe-woman.html.csp>) In 2012, a Patricia Polacco picture book for children titled *In Our Mothers' House* was banned from elementary school libraries in the Davis School District, because it depicted a family with lesbian parents. The district defended the decision claiming the book advocates homosexuality in defiance of the state's sex education laws. After the ACLU filed a lawsuit, the book was returned to library shelves. "I was up for a promotion and the vice president thought I was gay and fired me. 'I don't like people like you working here' is what I was told." *Experiences of Gay and Transgender Utahans: A Report to the Utah State*

Legislature, Equality Utah, January 2011. Failing to enact legal protections is tacit approval for Utahans to disparage and discriminate against LGBTQ citizens.

Employment discrimination is widely practiced throughout the United States. Depriving a person the enjoyment of earning an honest living is cruel in the sense that it leads to poverty and criminal acts in order for them to survive. This discrimination was widely used against African-Americans before the civil rights laws. Employers have denied, fired or allowed the lowest hard labor work to LGBT people. People have lost their jobs because they were simply suspected of being “gay.” Life outside of work was just as risky, if someone who knew the person seen them associating with queers, the report to their employer could be devastating. If a person looked or acted what was perceived to be too feminine or masculine for their sex, they risked losing their jobs.

The transgendered population sees the highest degree of discrimination of any segment of the LGBT community. This is due to the fact that they are “out” and more obvious making them easy targets. Employment discrimination is most prevalent with this group, as is the incidence of hate crimes. “We found that over half the people within this sample experienced some form of harassment or violence within their lifetime, with a quarter experiencing a violent incident. Further investigation found that experiencing economic discrimination because one is transgendered had the strongest association with experiencing a transgender related violent incident. Economic discrimination was related to transgendered people’s experience with violence. Therefore, both hate crimes legislation and employment protections are needed for transgendered individuals” (Lombardi et al., 2001).

Members of the LGBT community have only recently been elected into public office. The advancement of people of color and women elected into office over the last 20 years is an

indicator of the strength of democracy. Elected office is no longer a “good ol’boys” club. There is ample scholarly research that points out good governance that have inclusive legislatures are better at crafting stable societies and, more broadly, “just” policy. The involvement of the LGBT has centered on special interest groups to gain some civil rights. With changing attitudes in society, there may be greater acceptance for LGBT candidates. The effect of a community that has been in hiding, LGBT participation in governance has been lackluster.

Literature review

Academic studies confirm the discrimination in the workplace: “Evidence of employment discrimination faced by LGBT people may be found in several forms. First, on surveys, LGBT employees and their non-LGBT coworkers report experiences of employment discrimination. Second, LGBT employees may be underemployed or paid less than non-LGBT employees, despite having similar qualifications and experience. Data collected by government agencies also show that substantial numbers of LGB people report employment discrimination. Collected together, current research and surveys of employees from around the country indicate that many LGBT people experience various forms of employment discrimination” (Mallory et al., 2011, p. 1).

Sexual assault rates are much higher for lesbian and gays than what is experienced by the total population of the United States. According to population-based data, approximately 11–17% of women and 2–3% of men in the U.S. experience sexual assault during their lifetimes (Basile, et al., 2007; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). Our review of population-based studies finds that the prevalence estimates of LSA reported are approximately 15.6–85.0% for lesbian and bisexual (LB) women, and 11.8–54.0% for gay and bisexual (GB) men.

Non-discrimination laws. In adoption of sexual orientation and gender identity anti-discrimination laws, the argument has been stated that the laws may create an increased burden on government agencies. “However, even if LGBT people filed complaints at the same rates that women file sex discrimination complaints or minorities file racial/ethnic discrimination complaints, government agencies would not be overwhelmed. A 2008 national study of data from 1999-2007 identified the average annual number of sexual orientation complaints for all states with protection for sexual orientation in the workplace at just over 1,200, versus race and sex complaints at 11,500 and 13,800, respectively.⁵⁹ That study estimated that for every 10,000 LGB workers, there are approximately 5 complaints filed on the basis of sexual orientation per year” (Mallory et al., 2011, p. 5).

According to Grant et al. (2011) injustice that the transgender and gender non-conforming people face are found in “childhood homes, in school systems that promise to shelter and educate, in harsh and exclusionary workplaces, at the grocery store, the hotel front desk, in doctors’ offices and emergency rooms, before judges and at the hands of landlords, police officers, health care workers and other service providers.”

Transsexuals are the most vulnerable since they go through a period of transition where it is obvious that a person born of a physical sex is acting and appearing as a person of the opposite sex. First of all, transsexuals must navigate legal issues that LGB people rarely do: identity documents not reflective of one’s gender, sex-segregated public restrooms and other facilities, dress codes that perpetuate traditional gender norms, and barriers to access to appropriate health care. Transsexuals have high rates of suicide in a study conducted by Clements-Nolle et al. (2008). Their study found that half of LGBT youth have attempted suicide which “is particularly troubling and supports similar findings from LGB research.”

Clements-Nolle et al. concludes that “societal prejudice is a stronger risk factor for suicide among transgender persons than LGB individuals....transgender populations experience more intense discrimination and victimization than LGB populations because they challenge cultural norms related to both sexuality and gender.” The problems that are high in the transsexual population are estimated to be 28% had been in alcohol or drug treatment, 59% had been physically forced to have sex or raped, 62% experienced gender discrimination, 83% experienced verbal gender victimization, and 36% reported physical gender victimization. The prevalence of attempted suicide was 32% and the suicide prevalence was identical for male to female (MTF) and female to male (FTM) participants (Kristen Clements-Nolle et al., 2008).

As many state and local governments pass legislation for the protection of individuals with gender-identity issues, the federal notion of what constitutes sex discrimination appears to be similarly expanding as a result of judicial interpretation of Title VII. An employer who discriminates against an employee or applicant on the basis of the person's gender identity is violating the prohibition on sex discrimination contained in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in an opinion issued on April 20 by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The EEOC opinion comes with a growing number of federal appellate and trial courts deciding that gender-identity discrimination constitutes sex discrimination, whether based on Title VII or the constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws. This decision will apply to all EEOC enforcement and litigation activities at the commission and in its 53 field offices throughout the country. It also will be binding on all federal agencies and departments. In the decision, the EEOC states, “[T]he Commission hereby clarifies that claims of discrimination based on transgender status, also referred to as claims of discrimination based on gender identity,

are cognizable under Title VII's sex discrimination prohibition.” The EEOC could take action itself to sue the employer for discrimination.

With such advancements in protections, it begins to open doors toward elected and public administration representation. “Sexual orientation diversity has begun to be highlighted as a significant and component part of manifest inclusion...” (Reynolds, 2013). Traditionally gay politicians have been “outed” by competing political interests, such as Barney Frank. Many politicians and public administrators have served by keeping this aspect of their personal lives secret. Since the 1940s, rumors have circulated that Hoover was homosexual. The historians have speculated that Clyde Tolson, who became an associate director of the FBI and Hoover's primary heir, may have been his lover. In his 1993 biography *Official and Confidential: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*, the journalist Anthony Summers quoted "society divorcee" Susan Rosenstiel as claiming to have seen Hoover engaging in cross-dressing in the 1950s at homosexual parties.

Reynolds (2013) states that his “work rests on the theory that the presence of LGBT legislators in a national assembly will make more likely the passage of laws that heighten equality on the basis of sexual orientation, and I present strong evidence to suggest that to be the case.” Constraints on organized voting support by LGBT voters are usually geographically dispersed and can split across ideologies and parties. Although ethnic minority voters may be concentrated enough both geographically and politically to elect candidates of choice without the support of others, LGBT voters almost never have that opportunity. With past elected officials being secretive of their sexual orientation or gender identity, it has not been obvious to voters to support a candidate because of their inclusion in the LGBT community.

The lack of public officials that are part of the LGBT community makes it difficult to represent themselves as a legitimate, visible, and mainstream interest group, and has fed distrust and discrimination based on the fear generated by unfamiliarity. The impact that out gay elected officials have on the voting behavior of their colleagues and resulting public policy may be higher than that of female and minorities precisely because their visibility in office is such a new and, in some cases, jarring phenomenon. (Reynolds, 2013).

Like women, LGBT citizens are geographically and ethnically dispersed, but unlike women, they do tend to vote for parties that are sympathetic to their group's needs. But the challenge is to get them in a public office or administrative position where they can represent the community. "There is clear evidence to suggest that the inclusion of marginalized groups is correlated with policy benefits for that group. Summarizing the gender representation literature, Reingold notes that a "clear empirical link" has been established "between women's descriptive and substantive representation" Reynolds (2013).

In 2013, polling data provided by Pew signifies at least a few trends. Firstly, there is clearly a generational divide on the issue. 70% of Millennials (those born after 1980) support same-sex marriage. This contrasts with Gen X and Baby Boomer respondents. 49% of Gen X respondents (born 1965-1980) support same-sex marriage, while 38% of Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) support same-sex marriage. Contrasting levels of support are also apparent when considering political ideology, with those who are liberal or lean liberal expressing more support for same sex marriage than those who are conservative or lean conservative (PEW Research Center, 2013). One common thread exists where scholars all tend to agree that existing research is minimal and there is a need for further study.

SJLA plan

Gaining participation by a secluded population has several barriers to overcome. First is the seclusion, due to the fear of experiencing discrimination or violence. The growing acceptance of being gay in today's society is demonstrated by support and acceptance of pride day parades in many cities of the United States. It is becoming OK to be gay. On the issue of the advancement of gay civil liberty, the public opinion regarding same sex marriage has a clear majority support from the population of the United States.

A March 20–24, 2013 CBS News Poll shows that 53% of Americans support same-sex marriage, 39% oppose, and 8% are undecided (CBS News, 2013). The same poll also finds that 33% of Americans who now think same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry say they once held the opposite view and have changed their opinion. While Utah retains less public support for same sex marriage, there have been four openly gay members of the state legislature.

At this time, Utah voter turnout has declined from the 1960s where there was just short of an 80% voter turnout to approximately 35% in 2010. This decline in turnout can be used by the LGBT community to rally to elect politicians that are sympathetic with their advancement to squelch inequity and lack of protection in state and local laws. To enable the community to become active and make an impact with this opportunity, a program can be initiated where LGBT people can learn how they can impact the outcomes of elections.

The program would be “One more vote” where political participation would be fostered in a non-partisan manner, giving information about candidates and their positions and history toward the LGBT community. These sessions could be presented at the Gay and Lesbian Center, various universities and colleges, public meeting facilities and perhaps schools and community

groups. Attendance records for these sessions and follow-up would be kept and tracked. See Appendix B for an outline of the plan.

Utah LGBTQ organizations

Utah's LGBTQ movement is still in its adolescence. In 1985, David Nelson campaigned for Salt Lake City Council as the first openly gay candidate for office in Utah. He did not win, but he turned his efforts to helping establish the Gay and Lesbian Community Council of Utah. From these efforts sprang the Utah Stonewall Association, Utah Pride, Inc., the Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire, the Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats, and the Stonewall Shooting Sports of Utah ([Parker & Salt Lake Tribune, 2013](#)).

Today, LGBTQ individuals are coming together to form communities and partnerships for politics, support, and fun, including the following: Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons, The Alternative Garden Club, Gay Bikers of Utah, Queer Student Union of the University of Utah, First Unitarian Church, QUAC – Queer Utah Aquatics Club, Utah GLBT Business Guild, and Swerve Utah.

Utah's two largest LGBTQ organizations, Utah Pride Center and Equality Utah, both work to advocate for social change. "Utah Pride supports and serves the Utah LGBTQ community and its allies to strengthen our collective vision, impact, and collaboration." (<http://www.utahpridecenter.org/about-us/mission-&-history>) Utah Pride Queer Action Project is the political arm of the Center, advocating for marriage equality as well as safety, empowerment, and support of LGBTQ youth and their parents ([Utah Pride Center, n.d.](#)).

Equity Utah's Guiding Principles support the following:

1. “Securing measures that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in employment, housing, public accommodation, education, and extension of credit.”
2. “Securing measures to prevent harassment and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression in Utah’s public schools and in foster care and juvenile detention settings.”
3. “Assuring that the juvenile justice system extend to LGBT youth the same procedural and other protections extended to all other youth.”

Additionally, Equality Utah is working toward domestic partner registries and benefits, hospital visitation rights, and adoption rights. (Equality Utah, n.d.) A subset of Equality Utah is the Equality Utah Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization, whose role is to educate and train LGBT members and allies to work proactively for LBGT equality as lobbyists and political party delegates (Equality Utah Foundation, n.d.). Another arm, Equality Utah PAC, an IRS 527 organization, endorses and supports campaigns of LGBTQ supportive candidates for political office through financial donations and volunteer recruitment (Equality Utah, 2011). Endorsees include candidates for US Senate, Utah Governor, Utah State House of Representatives & Senate, City Mayors, City Council positions, and local School Boards (Equality Utah, 2012, n.d.). The following section will highlight a few experiences of local gay politicians in Utah state government. See Appendix A for a list of Utah State LGBT Legislators.

Evaluation

Attendance records for these sessions and follow-up can survey those who have participated in the election cycle. Using an exit poll of those on the attendance record and

tracking the success of those candidates that have been supported by the community can give an indication of the impact of the LGBT community in election outcomes.

Measuring outcomes: “How will we know it worked?”

1. Increase the political awareness of trained individuals.

End of training survey: Has this seminar increased your awareness of the political process in Utah? Please explain.

2. Increase the voting activity of trained individuals.

Voting records are public. We will check the records to see if our participants actually voted!

3. Increase the political activity of trained individuals.

6-Month Survey: In the last six months have you...

- Influenced another to register to vote?
- Made an ally of someone from a different interest group?
- Made an effort to understand the position of others in the LGBT community?
- Organized and communicated important LGBT issues with others?
- Felt more confident in discussing LGBT issues with non-LGBT citizens?
- Attended a caucus meeting?
- Served as a delegate?
- Attended a convention?

4. Increase the number of candidates for office among trained individuals.

Monitor “endorsed candidates” lists for trained individuals.

5. Increase the number of elected officials among trained individuals and/or the LGBT community.

Time will tell!

Conclusion

As we put the finishing touches on this assignment, which has (obviously) become more than just an academic exercise for us both, we celebrate the Supreme Court decisions declaring DOMA unconstitutional and denying standing to GOP Prop8 defenders. We have faith that this historic declaration of the value of equal rights by the nation's top court will usher in a new era of protection and justice for the LGBTQ community! More scholarly research needs to be done, as information regarding past LGBTQ voting performance compared to the efforts of the "One more Vote" program offers empirical evidence for the State of Utah

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Appendix-A

LGBTQ politicians

Jackie Biskupski, 1999-2011

"When I first came in there were legislators who couldn't even look me in the eye or didn't want to shake my hand," she said. "There were people asking the [House] speaker not to seat me and fight my election" (Gehrke & Salt Lake Tribune, 2011). Gayle Ruzicka, president of the Utah Eagle Forum, said there was resistance to Biskupski when she first arrived at the Capitol, and some in the Eagle Forum have worked to defeat Biskupski through the years.

"When you're the first homosexual to serve, I think, everybody is trying to figure out how to cope and how to handle things. It takes everybody a while to adjust to something like that. I'm sure she felt [ostracized]. She was alone," said Ruzicka, who now considers the lawmaker a friend. "Just because of someone's sexual choices doesn't mean you can't be their friend." Biskupski said legislators' attitudes toward her have changed and she now enjoys the respect and camaraderie of her colleagues. "It's like night and day," she said. (Gehrke & Salt Lake Tribune, 2011)

Scott McCoy, 2005-2009

When McCoy was chosen to fill a Senate vacancy in 2004, Buttars referred to him as "the gay" and expressed surprise at the delegates' choice. "I was wrong," Buttars said Tuesday. "This guy is an intelligent, real smart guy on a lot of issues. He represents them well. Scott McCoy isn't a one-issue guy like a lot of people think he is" (Roche & Salt Lake Tribune, 2009).

Christine Johnson, 2007-2010

Johnson said her time as a state representative has been "uniquely humbling," but she is troubled by what she sees as a "blatant disregard of those so in need of equal protections" (Raymond & Deseret News, 2010).

Jim Dabakis, 2013-2014

Dabakis said his sexual orientation was common knowledge, but came up during the nomination process. "The whole gay thing just simply did not surface as an issue," he told the Salt Lake Tribune. "People are broad-minded in Utah, and they want to know if you can do the job or not." (LGBTQNATION.com, 2011) These experiences illustrate that it is possible to have positive experiences as openly gay political leaders in Utah state government. With so many civil rights at stake, more LGBTQ citizens need to get involved in Utah politics.

In 2007, Democratic Utah State Senator, Scott McCoy, attempted to bring Utah sodomy laws into conformity with the Supreme Court decision in Lawrence with S.B 169 (LBGT Rights in Utah, 2013). The bill failed, and the unconstitutional Utah Code 76-5-403 remains on the books, listing sodomy as a class B misdemeanor. Other attempts to enact state-wide protections for LGBTQ community members have failed, including the following:

2005	SB 89	Mutual dependence contracts	Sen. Greg Bell, R-Davis
2008	HB 89	Antidiscrimination in employment Rep.	Christine Johnson, D-Salt Lake
2008	Common Ground Initiative		Equality Utah & Human Rights Campaign
2009	HB 225	Gender identity protection	Rep. Carl Wimmer, R-Salt Lake
2009	HB 89	Antidiscrimination in employment	Rep. Christine Johnson, D-Salt Lake
2010	HB 89	Antidiscrimination in employment	Rep. Christine Johnson, D-Salt Lake
2010	HB 128	Discrimination study	Rep. Christine Johnson, D-Salt Lake

Appendix-B

The plan

“The presence of LGBT [leaders] is correlated with significant improvements in overall gay rights. . . Pouring large amounts of time and money into electing even a single openly gay senator, representative, or state official may strengthen the effort to break down stereotypes and ease the passage of nondiscriminatory law (Reynolds, 2013).

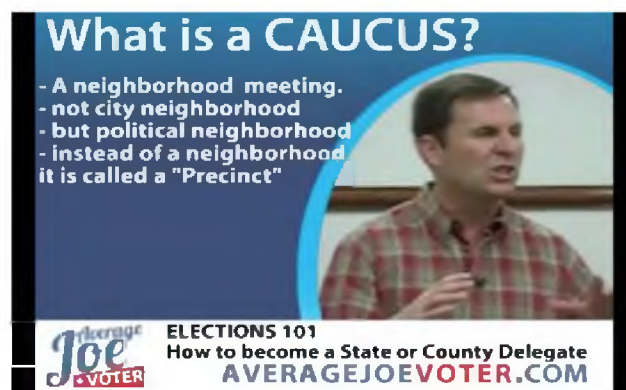
Plan objectives: “What do we hope will happen?”

1. Increase the political awareness of individuals.
2. Increase the voting activity of individuals.
3. Increase the political activity of trained individuals.
4. Increase the number of candidates for office among trained individuals.
5. Increase the number of elected officials among trained individuals.

Political action curriculum: “What do citizens need to know?”

1. Increase the political awareness of trained individuals.

What is a caucus meeting? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0aCd54imhI>

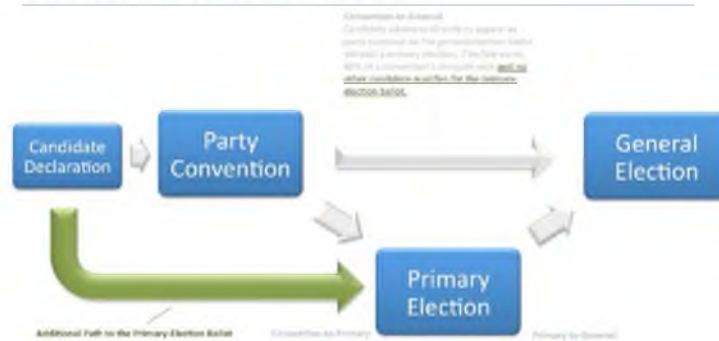


Pro Caucus: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-WKrrARWcA>



Anti Caucus: <http://www.countmyvoteutah.com>

Count My Vote Proposal



When are the caucus meetings? How to contact a political party.

<http://www.utah.gov/government/caucus.html>

Utah Precinct Caucus Information

Utah's political process begins every two years in neighborhood caucuses throughout the state where members of each precinct vote for delegates to represent them at county and state party conventions. Delegates then attend the convention to vote for candidates that will then face each other in the public general election.

2012 Caucus Meetings:
Democratic - March 13
Republican - March 15

Getting Involved

First visit the Lt. Governor's site to find your precinct number. You must be registered to vote to participate. Most caucus meetings allow you to register to vote during the meeting if you're not already.

Party Contact Information

Constitution Party
<http://www.cputah.org/>
 801-544-4056
 Contact

Democratic Party
<http://utahdemocrats.org/>
 801-328-1212
 Email: mail@utadem.org

Green Party
<http://gputah.org/>
 Email: info@utahgreenparty.org

Libertarian Party
<http://www.lputah.org/>
 801-534-8672
 Email: jmdex@inconnect.com

Republican Party
<http://utahgop.org/>
 801-533-8777
 Email: mail@utahgop.org

What is the timeline for election proceedings?

- Caucus Meetings MARCH
- Conventions MAY & JUNE
- Primary Elections OCTOBER
- General Elections NOVEMBER

2. Increase the voting activity of trained individuals.

How to register to vote.

This can be accomplished at the following website:

<https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/index.html>

How to find a polling location. <http://vote.utah.gov/elections/location/>

Who should I vote for? Find endorsements from organizations you respect.

<http://equalityutahpac.org/endorsements/item/66-2012-fair-minded-candidates>



http://www.myuea.org/politics_legislation/elections/2012_pac_recommendations.aspx

Candidates Recommended by Education PACs

Because of the important role elected officials play in public education, the NEA, UEA and each local UniServ have Political Action Committees comprised of local educator members. One role of these committees is to recommend candidates they believe are most likely to have a positive impact on public education and issues important to public education employees.


Following is a list of candidates recommended by national, state and local Political Action Committees and how they fared in the 2012 General Election (W = won election, L = lost election):

Federal Races— (W = 2 / L = 2)

- President of the United States: Barack Obama **W**
- United States Senate: Scott Howell **L**
- Congressional District 1: No Recommendation made to date
- Congressional District 2: Jay Seegmiller **L**
- Congressional District 3: No Recommendation made to date
- Congressional District 4: Jim Matheson **W**

Statewide Offices— (W = 1 / L = 1)

- Governor & Lt. Governor: Gary Herbert & Greg Bell **W**
- Attorney General: Dee Smith **L**
- State Auditor: No Recommendation made to date
- State Treasurer: No Recommendation made to date



<http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/elections/2012/voter-guide/voter-guide-states.html?state=UT>



3. Increase the political activity of trained individuals.

How to help others to vote. <http://www.particip8.org/vote/>



vote, and get others to vote

Voting is the bare minimum participation in a self-governed society. It's the most valuable right we could ask for. Every day, people around the world die fighting for their right to vote. Let your voice be heard! Help more people to vote by helping register people to vote. Let's vote, vote our conscience, and get others to vote too.

Register Yourself

Register now or send URLs to your friends. These sites ask questions and then spit out a pre-filled-out PDF form that you can print and mail. The site will also tell you where to mail it and the registration deadlines.

Register yourself now via [YourVoteMatters](#), [JustVote](#), or [Rock the Vote](#).

Register Other People

Registering other people to vote encourages community participation. This can lead to community participation in other ways: discussion, volunteering, self-organizing for good causes, advocacy, and collaborative solutions in a complex world. If you want to register other people to vote, you'll need...

How to build allies and a broader base beyond the LGBTQ community.

<http://www.publicinterestprojects.org/learn-about-alliance-building/>



[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Our Services](#) | [Funds & Projects](#) | [Blog](#)

Navigation

- [Checklist for Funders](#)
- [Why PIP for Alliance Building](#)
- [PIP On the Forefront of Alliance Building](#)
- [Success Stories](#)
- [Alliance Building Grants](#)

Learn About Alliance Building

The social justice movement is at a critical juncture. Recognizing both the opportunity and the potential for opposition, grassroots organizations are reaching beyond their constituencies to align themselves with others that share common goals. They recognize that working in isolated silos limits their impact on issues that affect social justice. Donors also understand that by forging cross-movement alliances they can more effectively realize their philanthropic visions. Alliance building is a smart strategy for donors and grassroots groups to maximize their impact and drive change in this new era of social justice.

Defining Alliance Building

Words like *collaboration* and *coalition* are a standard part of the social justice lexicon. But *alliance building* is something different. Grassroots organizations typically team up with like-minded groups and form coalitions as a tactical approach in a short-term crisis response. But *alliance building* is a deeper, long-term process that brings together different and sometimes unlikely partners in a focused way to find a shared vision and values. Over time, the result is deeply-rooted structural reform that builds broad-based political power and drives social justice reform.



How to increase unity between LGBTQ factions.

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20120221095545AAMXcTz>




Gato Marvado

Resolved Question

[Show me another »](#)

Apparently LGBT factions are at war and I don't know whether I am a sunni-gay or a shia-gay person?



Jared

Best Answer - Chosen by Asker

For every [Martin Luther King](#), there's a [Malcolm X](#). And for every gay man who thinks Pride parades are important to keep them in the public eye, there's another gay man who thinks he would have had marriage rights a decade ago if his fellow gays weren't horrifying suburban housewives by dancing around on TV in assless [leather chaps](#).

How to organize to alert others to political actions needing immediate attention.

<http://www.callmultiplier.com/?src=AdWords&kw=Phone%20Tree&matchtype=p&gclid=CMrDto-jiLgCFU2CQgod61wAgQ>



<http://miamiherald.typepad.com/gaysouthflorida/2012/05/sunserve-agency-in-wilton-manors-starts-phone-tree-to-inform-lgbt-community-of-social-services.html>

SunServe agency in Wilton Manors starts phone tree to inform LGBT community of social services

Here's a news release from [SunServe](#) in Wilton Manors:



How to overcome fear and avoid seclusion as an LGBTQ individual.

<http://es.slideshare.net/TheBowTieGuy/lgbt-aging-in-america-a-spiral-of-silence>

LGBT SENIOR INTERVIEWS

➤ Bernard, 81 years old

- "For years, I was made to feel like a third class citizen when visiting doctors...There has always been the fear of not being accepted...Gay seniors often climb into a cocoon to protect themselves" ("Bernard", telephone interview, July 4, 2012).

➤ Tom, 83 years old

- "I am amazed to learn of all the different support groups that are available for gay seniors. That has helped me meet new friends and have conversations like I have never had in my life before...I did not realize that there are so many gay men and women who live alone" ("Tom", telephone interview, July 5, 2012).

➤ Williams, 78 years old

- "All the seniors I interact with, whether they are straight or gay have the same concerns as it relates to health, loneliness, financial concerns, yet for the LGBT senior who lives out of fear as they age, that is quite burdensome" ("Williams", telephone interview, July 6, 2012).



<http://lgbttechpartnership.org/how-technology-has-moved-the-needle-on-same-sex-marriage/>

Thus came about the confluence of the LGBT community's civil rights movement with nascent and emerging technologies. The Internet allowed LGBT people to bridge across geographies in a way that no previous technologies permitted. The Internet also allowed LGBT people to safely and discreetly find partners and learn that they are not alone, regardless of where they live, from the comfort and security of their own home. The rise of social media with twitter, Instagram and Facebook and the continuous access via smartphones have only accelerated the decrease in isolation that has long been a part of the LGBT experience. One need only look at Facebook to see the red equal sign that is circulating in support of LGBT marriage.



more awesome pictures at THEMETAPICTURE.COM

What to expect at a party convention.



4. Increase the number of candidates for office among trained individuals.

How can I become a delegate at my local caucus meeting?

Republican Party:

<http://www.utgop.org/inner.asp?z=5E5F5E5F>

Democratic Party

<http://elections.utah.gov/Media/Default/Documents/elections%20resources/caucus%20d.pdf>

CAUCUS RULES

2012 Utah State Republican Party Caucus Rules

In an effort to clarify and simplify the meeting process while affording all participants their right to speak and vote, the following rules have been prepared. The State Republican Party Constitution and Bylaws set forth some of the rules which we will follow. These rules, because they are contained in the Party's governing documents, cannot be suspended or changed at the caucus under any circumstances.

The State Party Constitution states:
Each individual caucus shall be open to any Utah citizen who resides in the precinct, who will be at least 18 by the time of that year's general election. The State Party, through its Bylaws, may restrict participation and voting in the precinct caucuses based on party affiliation.

The State Party Bylaws states:
Qualifications and Disqualifications of State and County Delegates. Each individual caucus shall be open to the public. Each participant shall be:
1. A Utah citizen who resides in the precinct and
2. 18 by that year's general election.
3. A registered Republican party member as referenced in Article I of the Party Constitution or who registers as Republican at the individual caucus meeting. Each participant shall not be a simultaneous officer, delegate, candidate or registered affiliated voter of any other rival political party. (Voter registration materials shall be available at the meeting for those who wish to affiliate that right as Republicans.)
For purposes of this Bylaw, "rival political party" means any organization of registered voters currently qualified to fully participate in Utah elections as provided by Utah Code, which is not the Republican Party.
B. Each caucus meeting should begin with a prayer, pledge of allegiance, and reading and discussion of the party platform. The county party shall choose whether to read the state or county platform.

Where is my 2012 Neighborhood Caucus?

- For information on where your Democratic neighborhood caucus meeting will be held, please visit www.utahdemocrats.org. You may also contact Justin Daniels at the Utah Democratic Party at 801-328-1212.
- The Lieutenant Governor's office will post information regarding neighborhood caucus locations at www.vote.utah.gov.

Education First Utah

<http://www.educationfirstutah.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Basic-process.pdf>

UTAH PRECINCT CAUCUS PROCESS AND BECOMING A DELEGATE: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, HOW

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A DELEGATE?

- You must live within the precinct/legislative boundaries of your caucus meeting.
- You must be at least 18 years old by the November election.
- At Republican caucuses you must be a registered Republican to be elected.
- You should bring photo ID with you.
- You must be a registered voter in Utah.

5. Increase the number of elected officials among trained individuals.

How to obtain endorsements for candidacy.

<http://equalityutahpac.org/endorsements/item/88-2013-endorsement-process>

Posted: 07 June 2013 15:08

2013 Endorsement Process Featured



http://utahpolicy.com/view/full_story/21706619/article-Video--Possibly-the-Funniest-Political-Endorsement-Ever



<http://www.stonewallshootingssportsutah.org/ENDORSEMENTS.HTM>

The screenshot shows the website for Stonewall Shooting Sports of Utah. At the top, there is a banner with a handgun and the text "STONEWALL SHOOTING SPORTS OF UTAH." Below this, a quote reads: "A WELL REGULATED MILITIA BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED" AMENDMENT II, CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (1791). On the left, there is a sidebar with links: "GO SHOOTING", "WRITE US", "LEARN MORE", "OUR LINKS", "JOIN SA", and "HOME". The main content area is titled "CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS" and lists "2012 UTAH CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS". It states that since 2004, the organization has endorsed hundreds of candidates from every political party in the state. It lists the criteria for endorsement: support of protecting the weapon rights and liberties of all Utah citizens, and the equal rights and liberties of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Utah citizens. It then lists the candidates endorsed, including U.S. President/Vice President, U.S. House of Representatives, Utah Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Utah Attorney General, Utah Treasurer, Utah Senate, and Utah House of Representatives.


Recruit volunteers!

<http://utgop.org/inner.asp?z=5A5A5A>

 The screenshot shows the "VOLUNTEER" registration form for the Utah GOP. At the top, it says "All the colored fields are mandatory". Below this, it says "Please help the Utah GOP by becoming a volunteer today. You will receive special information, insight, call to actions and much more!". The form is divided into two sections: "A Personal Information" and "B I am willing to do". Section A includes fields for "My Name is" (First Name, Last Name), "My Address" (Street Address, State, City, Zip Code), "I can be contacted at" (Email Address, Cell Phone), and "I am willing to do" (Make Phone Calls, Call talk Radio, Data Entry, Write Letters to the Editor, Track local Media, Walk Neighborhood to register voter). A "SUBMIT" button is at the bottom right.

Who can help?

<http://www.utahdemocrats.org/caucuses?catid=64>



**Stonewall Democrats
(LGBT) Caucus
-Todd Bennett**

toddbehr60@yahoo.com
www.utahstonewalldems.org
 Facebook

Seek advice from LGBT elected officials.

<https://www.facebook.com/jim.dabakis>



Don't be a One-Hit-Wonder: Know more than just LGBT issues.

<http://www.policymic.com/articles/21496/the-10-biggest-political-issues-we-ll-be-taking-about-in-2013>



PolicyMic

From basic classroom laptops to smart devices. We design the tools, sit up and take notes. [Learn more >>](#)

POLITICS WORLD CULTURE MILLENNIALS MORE

The 10 Biggest Political Issues We'll Be Taking About in 2013

Douglas Goodman in Politics 6 months ago

2 20 1 5

In an [article](#) last week, I reviewed the record of accomplishment, or rather lack of accomplishment, of the congressional session that is ending in a few days. Congress is leaving quite a few issues unresolved, so heading into the New Year, here, in no particular order, are the 10 major issues I believe we will continue to discuss in 2013.

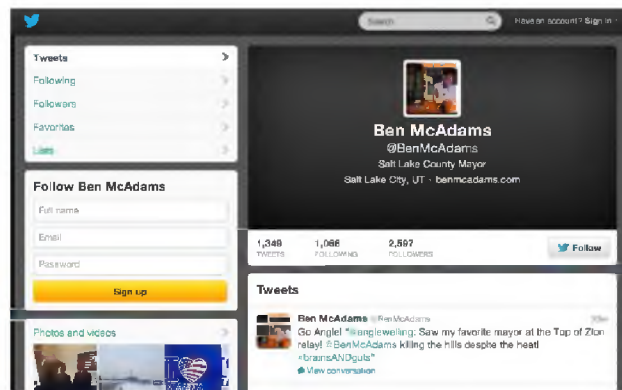
1) The Economy. This is a multi-faceted issue. Will Congress and the president take action on the ~~revenue~~ debt? Will tax reform

Communicate!

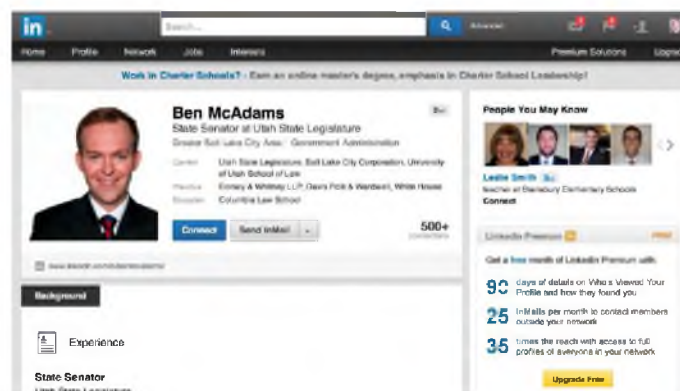
<https://www.facebook.com/BenForMayor> Facebook



<https://twitter.com/BenMcAdams> Twitter

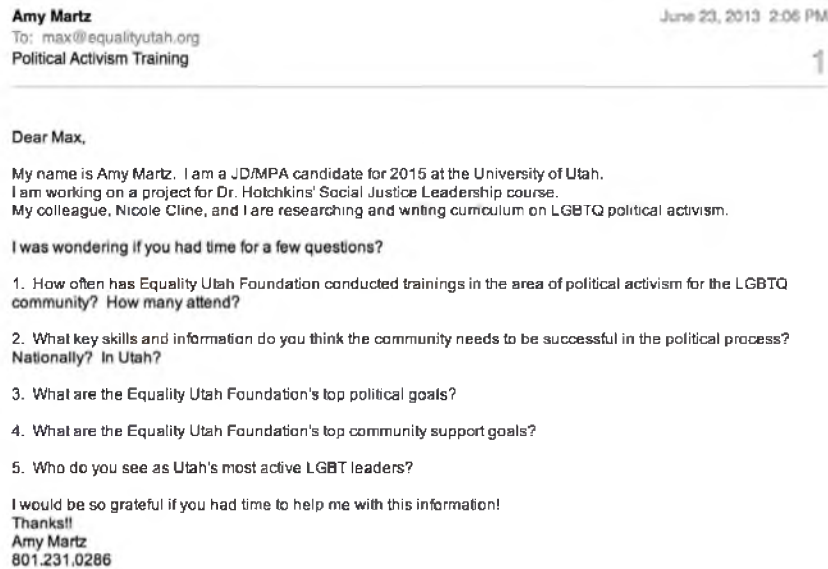


<http://www.linkedin.com/in/benmcadams> LinkedIn



Forum for curriculum instruction: “Who wants to learn, and where will we meet?”

LGBT organizations are understaffed and overworked. Our emails to Equality Utah and the Utah Pride Center about political action trainings have gone unanswered at this time. (Note: Both webpages contained failed links/email addresses for the organizations’ political action leaders.)



It may take a significant effort to create interest in and support for political action training. The “media-blitz” method of multiple attempts to communicate could work as follows:

1. Email potential host organizations:

- Equality Utah
- Utah Pride Center
- Public Libraries
- Party Organizations
- Caucus Organizations
- County Government

2. Create a flyer and newsletter article to accompany a cover letter explaining our interest in training political leaders in the LGBTQ community. Offer to speak at upcoming meetings to promote future political action training.
3. Call each organization to follow up on the letter.
4. Make a personal visit to each organization.